



# Odyssey of the Mind®

## Newsletter

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### Hope to “CU” in Boulder for World Finals ‘02

It's hard to believe, but it's that time again -- World Finals is just around the corner. And, after 10 years, Odyssey of the Mind is returning to the University of Colorado at Boulder for the big event. CU- Boulder also hosted World Finals in 1989. With two years of past experience, CU is sure to provide another memorable event, filled with fun, friends and creativity!

Founded in 1876, CU-Boulder is recognized as one of the most exceptional and attractive universities in the United States. On campus, 200 classic



Italian-style buildings and complexes are nestled at a 5,400-foot altitude against the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Thomas Gaines, author of *The Campus as a Work of Art*, noted CU-Boulder as having "the best campus of any public institution in the country, based on criteria such as landscape, urban space, architectural quality and overall appeal."

Besides aesthetics, CU is noted for its academics. The university offers more than 3,400 courses of study in more than 175 different fields. CU's faculty members are prominent in their teaching and research. In fact, in October 2001, CU professors Carl Wieman and Eric Cornell earned the Nobel Prize in Physics for their creation of a new state of matter just above

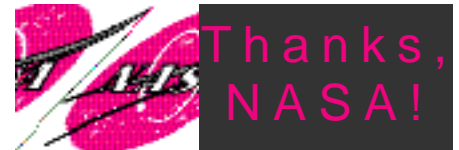
absolute zero.

When it comes to things to do between competitions, Odyssey participants will never be at a loss. On campus, you can visit the Museum of Natural History, the Fiske Planetarium, and the CU Art Galleries. There's also University Memorial Center, a hub of restaurants, stores and other venues.

If you want to venture off campus, Pearl Street Mall is just a short walk.

Located in the center of downtown Boulder, it is a four-block stretch of open-air stores and restaurants, complete with sidewalk performers.

Boulder is known to be a mecca for fitness enthusiasts. Many marathon runners come here to train, as do bicycling competitors. Because of the thin air of the high altitude and the challenge of uphill travel, athletes know that if they can achieve their "personal best" here, they're bound to do the same elsewhere. In fact, Boulder hosts one of the largest 10k races every Memorial Day. The "Bolder Boulder" attracts world-class runners and is an exhilarating -- but challenging -- experience. (Take it from this editor, who's run it a couple of times.) If running six miles seems too overwhelming, participate by walking the course. Or, you can go white-water rafting on the Colorado River. Whatever you choose, be sure to take time to enjoy the breathtaking



Odyssey participants often ask, "How is the NASA sponsorship benefitting us?" The answer? In many ways. Here are just a few items NASA has provided over the past program year:

- | A Web site especially for our participants to help develop solutions to *OMER's Earthly Adventures*, and to learn more about our environment.
- | Curriculum activities for our members in an effort to integrate creative problem-solving into the regular classroom.
- | Expert consultants for *OMER's Earthly Adventures*, lending insight and expertise to solving environmental concerns. They have also represented Odyssey at conferences to spread the word about us. NASA truly



### Also In This Issue . . .

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**H**ave you ever filled out a form incorrectly with no way to correct it? Or typed a paper and, just before handing it in, realize there's an extra word that doesn't belong? Even with today's technology, mistakes aren't always easy to correct without having to cross out words, leaving an unsightly mess. Luckily, there is now a white liquid that can make words disappear, leaving documents looking neat and clean. There is one woman to thank for this convenient invention: Bette Nesmith Graham.

Artist-turned-secretary thinks outside the box

At age 17, Bette Nesmith Graham was a single mother working as a freelance artist. Unfortunately, her career didn't pay enough to support herself and her son (Michael, who became an artist in his own right as a member of the group The Monkees), so in 1951 she learned typing and shorthand, and took a job as a secretary.

Erasing mistakes from the carbon ribbon typewriters used at the time made a sloppy mess, and Graham knew there had to be a better way. She thought to try the same technique artists use to correct mistakes: she painted over them. She carried her water-based paints and a paintbrush to work with her and painted over her errors, making sure the paint matched the color of the paper she was using. Her boss never noticed the mistakes.

"Mistake Out" catches on

One day, a co-worker asked Graham for some of her correcting fluid, so she brought in a bottle from home and labeled it "Mistake Out." Soon, everyone in the office was asking for it. In 1956, Graham turned her kitchen into a laboratory, where she bottled Mistake Out, and ultimately received the patent for it (later it was renamed Liquid Paper).

The company quickly grew and by 1975 was producing 25 million bottles that were shipped to 31 countries. In 1979, Graham sold the company to Gillette for \$45.7 million.

Thanks to a freelance painter who used traditional items in a non-traditional way, papers and other documents can now be neat and error free!

Sources:



## More Fundraising Ideas

In our Winter 2000 issue we listed some fundraising ideas for Odyssey teams. Here are more ideas, courtesy of New Jersey Odyssey of the Mind (CUinNJ):

- | Present a **Night of Champions**. Charge admission and have teams perform their solutions for school-mates, parents, teachers and other members of the community.
- | Host a **Spontaneous Day**, where students, parents, teachers and anyone else can participate in solving spontaneous problems. Charge per team or per participant.
- | Play **Musical Chairs**. Arrange the maximum number of chairs on a football field or in a gym. Charge \$5 per chair and sell to one more person than you have chairs to support. Play the music, stop, and eliminate one person and chair. The last ten people win items donated by supporters.
- | Hold a **Games Night**. Set up games such as Scrabble, Trivial Pursuit and Monopoly, and ask for donations of \$2-\$5 from players. Give trophies, ribbons, or other prizes to winners.
- | Sponsor a **Road Rally**. Have participants follow a prescribed course with cryptic questions and directions. Charge \$5 per person or \$20 per car. This makes for a great parent/child activity!
- | Sponsor a **Car-Wash-A-Thon**. Advertise a "free car wash" in local newspapers, send home flyers with school children, hang up posters, etc. A few weeks before the actual event, have children find "sponsors" who support their willingness to wash as many cars as they can, donating a fee for each car washed. For example, if a child washes 20 cars and gets 20 sponsors to pay a dollar for each car washed, the child gets \$20 per car for a total of \$400. Post signs the day of the event with directions to the location. (Remember to remove the signs after the event!)
- | Hold an **auction**. Ask for donations or bid for services that your team members can perform.
- | Develop a **team shirt** or a **local pin** to sell to the general public. Contact OdysseybyCUinNJ@worldnet.att.net for help in having pins made.
- | Remember to **sell refreshments** at all organized events!

Keep in mind that success is often in the planning. Think of every detail that needs to be covered and cover it . . . and don't forget that safety comes first.



# Odyssey of the Mind

## Family Album

**W** On January 18, Lycoming County commissioners honored Odyssey Coach **Joy A. Walls, PA**, for outstanding service in her job and community. Joy, a gifted teacher in the Loyalsock Township School District, was named volunteer of the year for organizing and running Odyssey of the Mind there. In 11 years, 775 students and 220 parent volunteers participated in the program, earning eight state championships and two world titles.

**W** Congratulations to **Adam Rusilowski, Poland**. He is now a professor at the Institute of Education, University of Gdansk, heading the World Drama in Education postgraduate program.



back detail

### GET YOUR **OFFICIAL** ODYSSEY TEE FOR 2002!

This year's official tee has Odyssey of the Mind on the front with a wave design on both front and back. It comes in two color schemes: ash with a red, white and blue design or Mandarin Orange with a blue design. Available in adult size small, medium, large, extra large and extra, extra large (add \$1.50 to cost for each XXL ordered). (Order below.)

## ODYSSEY OF THE MIND PRODUCT ORDER FORM

### PUBLICATIONS

- \_\_\_\_\_ \* **Applying Your Creativity** @ \$18 Discusses different types of human creativity..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ \* **Creativity + Teamwork = Solutions!** @ \$18 Includes tips on building effective teams ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ \* **Odysseymania!** @ \$17 Includes a chapter on humor and creativity ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ \* **Make Learning Fun** @ \$17 Provides a history of the program ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*\* **Spontaneous Problem Competitions** @ \$7.50 Booklet of spontaneous problems w/coaching & judging tips \_\_\_\_\_

### VIDEOS

- \_\_\_\_\_ Odyssey of the Mind 2001 World Finals Video Yearbook @ \$20 Highlights of the event..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coaches Training Video @ \$18 Tips & techniques for coaches ..... \_\_\_\_\_

### CLOTHING

- \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Ash tee State quantity of each size S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ @ \$15 XXL \_\_\_ @ \$16.50 ..... \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*Orange tee State quantity of each size S \_\_\_ M \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ @ \$15 XXL \_\_\_ @ \$16.50 ..... \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPORT MATERIALS

- \_\_\_\_\_ \*packs of Balsa Wood (premium grade AAA 36" x 1/8" x 1/8") @ \$20 100 pieces (includes S & H)..... \_\_\_\_\_

*\*These books are a collection of long-term and spontaneous problems.  
Shipping & handling within the U.S. is **\$3.50** for the first item, **\$1** for each additional item. Orders outside of the U.S. will be charged additional shipping.  
**\*\*There are no shipping & handling charges for these items within the U.S.***

Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
Shipping & Handling \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

### To submit payment:

- | Complete this form and mail to CCI, 1325 Rte 130 S, Suite F, Gloucester City, NJ 08030, along with a check, money order or p.o., payable to CCI, or with your credit card information.
  - | If paying by p.o., you may FAX your order to 856.456.7008.
  - | If paying by credit card, you may FAX your order, order by phone: 856.456.7776, or e-mail info@odysseyofthemind.com.
- \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ American Express \_\_\_ Discover  
Acct. no. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

### SHIPPING ADDRESS (For UPS Delivery)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



c/o Creative Competitions, Inc.  
1325 Rte 130 S | Suite F | Gloucester City, NJ 08030  
[www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com)

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*Hey Teams!*  
*Good luck at your Regional Tournament*  
*and your Association Finals!*

**OMER**

The *Odyssey of the Mind Newsletter* is published by Creative Competitions, Inc. Editor: Carol Ann DeSimine. Assistant: Kristy

## Long-Term Problem Clarifications

*Current as of January 25, 2002. Check [www.odysseyofthemind.com](http://www.odysseyofthemind.com) regularly for updates.*

### **PROBLEM NO. 1: THE CHAMELEON**

1. The Environment Area will be a minimum of 7-foot deep.
2. The audience will be seated to the left as shown in Figure A. Judges will position themselves to see the team's presentation as needed.

### **Problem No. 2: OMER's EARTHLY ADVENTURES**

1. Some printed versions of the problem show Division V. This should be Division IV.
2. The team-created task may not be anything from either list A or B, but must be truly a TEAM-

### **PROBLEM NO. 3: CENTER STAGE**

1. Teams must provide protective floor covering such as plywood for performances that include a dance such as tap dancing that may damage the floor. If a team comes unprepared and the judges feel that floor damage may occur, then the judging team may prohibit the team from performing the dance. Teams should contact the Tournament Director for site specifics regarding floor surfaces.
2. Humor is not required in the problem solution.
3. A stage set consists of background items that represent a time, place or concept and props that enhance the set. It is the subjective opinion of the judges as to whether or not the team has altered or substituted these items enough to provide two different settings. Teams must inform the Staging Area Judge when the

### **PROBLEM NO. 4: IT'S A SNAP!**

1. Balsa wood that is used to interlock components must either be (a) part of a component or (b) a component in and of itself, meeting the requirements of a

### **PROBLEM NO. 5: THE OSTRICH FACTOR**

1. Although the team may have more than one way to "hide" the OFC's head, only one will be scored in D,5. This is the one shown on the list